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NO. 97
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SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS
BAT MAN
Featuring "The RETURN of the BAT-HOUND!"
LOOK! A PICTURE OF BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON! ACE HAS DISCOVERED OUR SECRET IDENTITIES!
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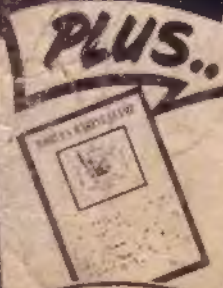

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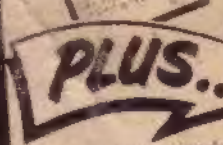

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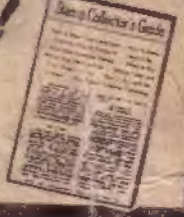

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NAME_____

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BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -
THE JOKER RETURNS!
YES, ONCE AGAIN THAT ARCH PRANKSTER, THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME, RETURNS. MOCKINGLY, DEFIANTLY, HE LEAVES BRAZEN CLUES TO HIS THEFTS IN ADVANCE, DARING THE RESOURCEFUL BATMAN AND ROBIN TO OUTWIT HIM IN A GAME OF WITS! AND WHEN BATMAN ACCEPTS THE CHALLENGE, THE WORLD WATCHES AND WAITS TO SEE WHO WILL BE THE VICTOR, WHEN...
The JOKER ANNOUNCES DANGER
YOU'RE TOO LATE, BATMAN! I'LL MAKE MY ESCAPE AS ALWAYS! HA, HA! HA, HA!
BOB KANE
ONE NIGHT, AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM MAKES ITS DEBUT ON TELEVISION...
...AND NOW I WISH TO INTRODUCE THAT GREAT CRIME-FIGHTER, WHO WILL BE THIS PROGRAM'S GUEST ANNOUNCER-- BATMAN!
GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
THE BATMAN! SO SMUG-- SO SURE OF HIMSELF! GUEST ANNOUNCER! BAH! IT'S TIME SOMEONE ANNOUNCED TO THE WORLD THAT HE'S OVERRATED! AND I'M THE ONE TO DO IT!

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LATER, A FIGURE FROM THE PAST WALKS THROUGH MODERN DAY GOTHAM CITY...
HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
LOOK! IT'S SOMEONE DRESSED UP AS AN OLD-FASHIONED "TOWN CRIER"!
I WONDER WHAT NEWS HE'LL ANNOUNCE?
SUDDENLY, THE "TOWN CRIER" WHIPS OFF HIS MAKEUP TO REVEAL THE MOCKING FACE OF...
THE JOKER!
HA, HA! YES--THE JOKER--HERE TO ANNOUNCE THAT I CHALLENGE BATMAN TO ANOTHER CONTEST OF WITS! HA! HA!
COMING OUT OF THE TV STUDIO NEARBY, BATMAN AND ROBIN HEAR THE JOKER'S INSULTING DEFIANCE...
SURE OF YOURSELF, AREN'T YOU?
SO SURE THAT I WILL ANNOUNCE ALL MY PLANS IN ADVANCE BY LEAVING CLUES--AND TO MAKE IT FITTING, ALL MY CRIMES WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH ANNOUNCING!
HEAR YE! HEAR YE! THE JOKER WILL NOW ESCAPE! HA! HA!
COME ON, ROBIN--LET'S PUT THAT LAUGHING HYENA IN A CAGE!
CLANG CLANG
BUT ON BURSTING IN...
HE SLIPPED THROUGH ONE OF THESE OFFICE DOORS! BUT WHICH ONE?
THAT ONE! I CAN HEAR HIS BELL!
CLANG CLANG
HE TRICKED US! HE TIED THE BELL TO THAT ROTATING FAN!
AND LOOK THERE--HE LEFT A CLUE TO HIS NEXT CRIME! A CHECKERBOARD!
CLANG CLANG
CLANG!
HA! HA! MY FIRST CLUE!
THAT MEANS HIS NEXT CRIME WILL INVOLVE A SPORTS ANNOUNCER--AND CHESS OR CHECKERS!
TOO OBVIOUS, ROBIN! I'M SURE THERE'S A DEEPER MEANING FOR THAT CHECKERBOARD, BUT WHAT CAN IT BE?
READER, CAN YOU GUESS THE RIDDLE OF THE CHECKERED CLUE?
2

NEXT DAY, BEFORE THE START OF THE ANNUAL MIDGET AUTO RACE, FURTIVE FIGURES SNEAK INTO THE ANNOUNCER'S BOOTH...
GRAB HIM, PETE--WHILE I SWITCH ON THE MICROPHONE AND MAKE MY ANNOUNCEMENT! HA! HA!
PRESS BOX
ATTENTION, PLEASE! THERE WILL BE A LAST-MINUTE ENTRY! CAR NUMBER 5 WILL BE DRIVEN BY JOE KERR!
AND SOON, THE RACE BEGINS--SIGNALED BY THE DIPPING OF THE STARTER'S TRADITIONAL CHECKERED FLAG!
HA! HA! I WONDER IF BATMAN FIGURED OUT THAT THE RACING FLAG IS MY CLUE? HA! HA!
AS THE LITTLE CARS ROAR AROUND THE TRACK, THE JOKER PREPARES TO ACT ON THE REST OF HIS PLAN...
EXACTLY THREE O'CLOCK--THE TIME THE ARMORED TRUCK PULLS UP TO TAKE THE GATE RECEIPTS!
SUDDENLY, IN A SURPRISE MANEUVER, THE JOKER SPEEDS THROUGH A SIDE GATE...
HEY--!??
HA, HA!
BEFORE THE GUARDS CAN MOVE, THE JOKER'S GREEDY HAND HAS SNATCHED THE GATE RECEIPTS AND...
HELLO--AND GOODBYE! HA, HA!
GOTHAM CITY BANK
3

SUDDENLY, A SLEEK VEHICLE APPEARS...
HA, HA! THERE'S BATMAN! HE FINALLY SOLVED MY CLUE, AFTER ALL!
THE JOKER! WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME!
LIKE A STREAMLINED METEOR OF STEEL, THE BATMOBILE CAREENS AFTER THE MIDGET MENACE...
EVEN A RACING CAR CAN'T OUTRUN THE BATMOBILE -- BUT I PREPARED FOR THIS EMERGENCY!
ABRUPTLY, THE GRIM JESTER SENDS HIS TINY CAR UP THE SIDEWALK AND INTO A NARROW ALLEY...
THAT CUNNING RASCAL! HE KNOWS THE BATMOBILE COULDN'T FIT INTO THAT PASSAGE!
HA HA HA HA
PURSUIT IS USELESS NOW! HE'S HAD TOO MUCH OF A HEADSTART! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND HOPE HE SLIPS UP WITH HIS NEXT CLUE!
NEXT DAY, COMMISSIONER GORDON HANDS BATMAN AND ROBIN A PACKAGE LEFT FOR THEM AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
CINDERS AND CANDY!
HOW CAN THAT, PLUS AN ANNOUNCER, ADD UP TO A JOKER CRIME?
AND ELSEWHERE, THE JOKER CHORTLES OVER HIS IDEA...
HA, HA! LET BATMAN TRY TO FIGURE OUT THAT CLUE! HA, HA!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
CINDERS AND CANDY! A STRANGE CLUE, INDEED! CAN YOU SOLVE ITS MEANING?

LATER, INSIDE A CRACK EXPRESS TRAIN...
DISPATCHER'S OFFICE CALLING! BATMAN WARNS US THAT THE JOKER WILL ATTEMPT TO HOLD UP YOUR TRAIN! THEREFORE YOUR ORDERS ARE CHANGED!
"THE DISPATCHER'S OFFICE?" NO, IT IS THE GRIM JESTER WHO IS DOING THE TALKING!
STOP YOUR TRAIN AT THE NEXT YARD TO TAKE ON ADDITIONAL GUARDS!
SO, SHORTLY AFTER, THE ENGINEER GRINDS HIS TRAIN TO A STOP, AND UNWITTINGLY ALLOWS THE DISGUISED JOKER'S BAND ABOARD...
THE JOKER!
I'LL TAKE THAT CONSIGNMENT OF JEWELS THAT THIS TRAIN IS CARRYING!
MEANWHILE...
YOU FINALLY DID IT-- YOU FIGURED OUT THE CINDERS WAS A CLUE TO THE CINDERBEDS OF RAILROAD TRACKS, BATMAN!
AS FOR THE CANDY CLUE, THAT MEANT A "CANDY TRAIN"-- RAILROAD SLANG FOR A TRAIN TRANSPORTING JEWELRY!
AND FREIGHT LISTINGS TOLD YOU ONLY ONE TRAIN IS CARRYING A BIG CONSIGNMENT OF JEWELRY!
THERE'S THE TRAIN NOW! I'LL WARN ONE OF THOSE RAILROAD MEN ABOUT THE JOKER!
SUDDENLY, BATMAN'S TRAINED EYES NOTE SOMETHING UNUSUAL...
REAL RAILROAD MEN ALWAYS OBEY THE SAFETY RULE OF BACKING DOWN CAR STEPS! THOSE MEN ARE PHONIES!
BUT AS THE CAPED LAWMEN CHARGE...
HURRY! WE CAN LOSE THEM IN THE MAINTENANCE YARD!
5

IF ONLY WE COULD DOWN THEM FAST...
WE CAN! THERE'S THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEM!
WITH ONE TREMENDOUS HEAVE, BATMAN AND ROBIN SEND THE TRAIN AXLE ROLLING INTO THE BANDITS, AND...
UHHH! I DROPPED THE SATCHEL OF JEWELRY!
THEN, LIKE TWIN HURRICANES, BATMAN AND ROBIN STRIKE!
MUST FORGET THE LOOT AND CONCENTRATE ON ESCAPE WHILE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE BUSY FIGHTING THE MUSCLEMEN I HIRED!
MOMENTS LATER, BATMAN, ROBIN AND POLICE SEARCH THE YARD, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS...
CHEER UP, BATMAN! AT LEAST HE DIDN'T GET AWAY WITH HIS LOOT THIS TIME!
I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I SEE THAT CROOKED CLOWN BEHIND BARS!
AFTERWARD, WHEN THE YARD IS DESERTED, THE DOOR OF A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE UNDER REPAIR SWINGS OPEN...
HA, HA! THE ONE PLACE THEY NEVER FIGURED I'D BE HIDING IN IS THE COLD "SMOKE BOX"! HA, HA! NOW.. I'M FREE TO ANNOUNCE MY NEXT CRIME CLUE! HA! HA!
AND NEXT DAY, POLICE HEADQUARTERS RECEIVES ANOTHER BIZARRE MESSAGE...
A PLAIN SOCK--
--AND A METAL ARROW!
READER, CAN YOU UNDERSTAND THE CRIME IMPLIED IN THE CRYPTIC CLUES?

HOURS LATER, AS AN AIRLINER IS EN ROUTE TO GOTHAM CITY, THE PILOT RECEIVES A WEATHER BULLETIN...
THIS IS GOTHAM AIRFIELD CALLING! A HURRICANE HAS HIT HERE! YOU ARE TO LAND INSTEAD AT THE WEATHER STATION FIELD 25 MILES OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS!
HIDDEN IN THE WOODS NEAR THE WEATHER STATION FIELD, THE JOKER LAUGHS TRIUMPHANTLY...
HA! HA! THE PILOT DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT I CUT INTO THE AIRFIELD'S WAVELENGTH AND MADE THAT FAKE WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENT! NOW HE'LL LAND DOWN HERE -- WHERE I CAN HIJACK HIS $100,000 BANK SHIPMENT!
BUT JUST AS THE JOKER DARTS TOWARD THE LANDING PLANE, HE IS BLOCKED BY TWO MANTLED FIGURES!
WHAT...? BATMAN AND ROBIN! NOW I'LL HAVE TO USE THE ESCAPE ROUTE I PLANNED -- WITHOUT COMPLETING THE ROBBERY!
RACING TO THE STATION SHED, THE JOKER CUTS A WEATHER BALLOON FROM ITS MOORING...
HA! HA! THIS BALLOON WILL CARRY ME ABOVE THE CLOUDS WHERE MY MEN ARE WAITING TO PULL ME INTO OUR GETAWAY BLIMP! HA! HA! FAREWELL, BATMAN!
GRIMLY, BATMAN REACHES OUT FOR A FOREST RANGER'S HIGH-POWERED RIFLE...
HE'LL COME RIGHT DOWN AGAIN -- WHEN A BULLET PUNCTURES THAT BALLOON!
BATMAN! NO! YOU CAN'T! HE'LL BE KILLED!
BLAM
POP!
7

ABRUPTLY, THE JOKER'S PLUNGE IS SUDDENLY CHECKED!
TCH-TCH, ROBIN--
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT A WEATHER BALLOON BURSTS AUTOMATICALLY 12 MILES UP... AND THAT ITS BOXED TRANSMITTER IS PARACHUTED BACK TO EARTH?
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET TOO FAR UP, JOKER... OR YOUR GANG COULD HAVE PULLED YOU INTO YOUR BLIMP!
WE'LL RADIO THE AIR POLICE TO GET THEM, TOO! IT'LL BE ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY!
BAH! SO YOU FIGURED OUT THAT THE METAL ARROW MEANT A WEATHER VANE... AND THE SOCK MEANT AN AIRFIELD WINDSOCK!
YES! THAT, PLUS KNOWING THE PLANE'S CARGO, ADDED UP TO AN AIRPLANE ROBBERY IN WHICH YOU'D ANNOUNCE A FAKE WEATHER REPORT!
AND SO, THE JOKER IS LATER FORCED TO LISTEN TO ANOTHER TYPE OF ANNOUNCER...
ANNOUNCERS! BAH!
INTO YOUR CELLS!
THE END

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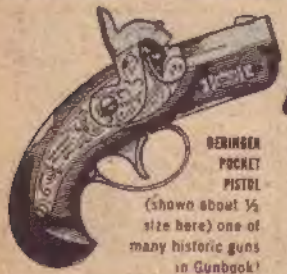

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NAME_____

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CASEY
THE COP
FINE RECREATION FOR THE PRISONERS!
SOME HIT!
HOLD IT! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
B-BUT, WE'RE PLAYING A GAME!
CASEY, WHAT'S THE ARGUMENT ABOUT?
WELL, WARDEN --
THE BALL WAS HIT OVER THE WALL, AND #6512 WANTS TO GO OUT AFTER IT!

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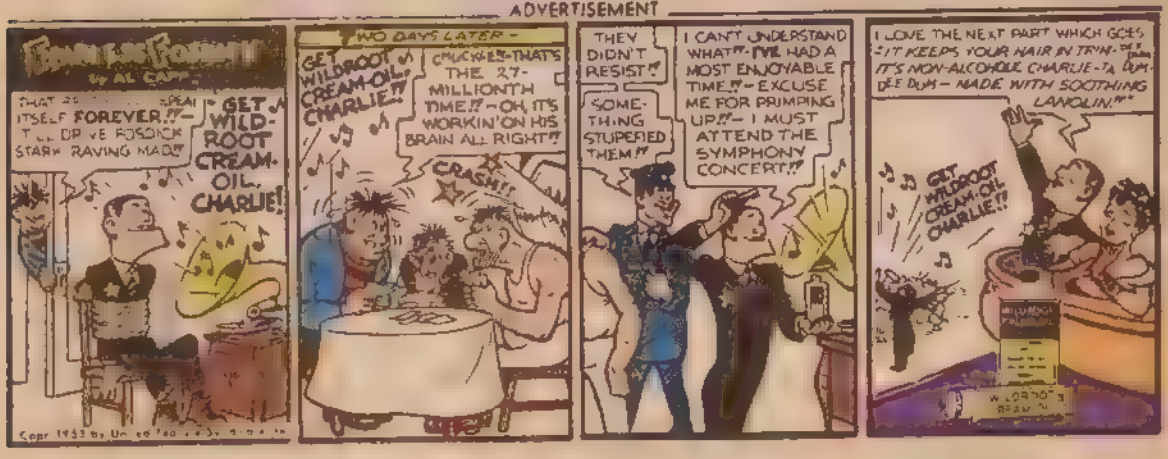
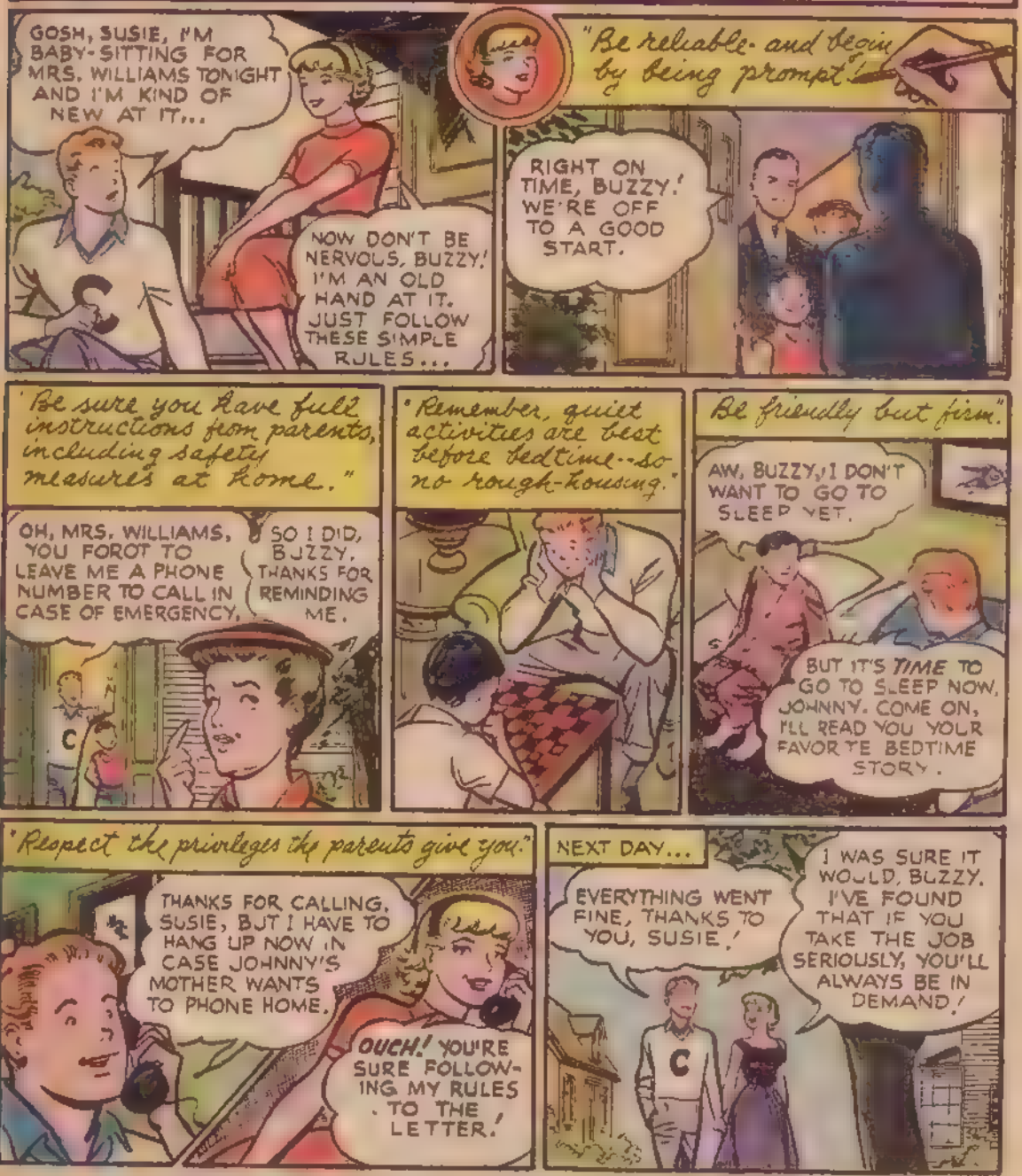

by AL CAPP
THAT SPELLS ITSELF FOREVER!!— I'LL BE FOSDICK STARK RAVING MAD!!
GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, CHARLIE!
TWO DAYS LATER —
GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, CHARLIE!!
CHUCKLES—THAT'S THE 27-MILLIONTH TIME!!—OH, IT'S WORKIN' ON HIS BRAIN ALL RIGHT!!
CRASH!!
THEY DIDN'T RESIST!!
SOMETHING STUPEFIED THEM!!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S—I'VE HAD A MOST ENJOYABLE TIME!!— EXCUSE ME FOR PRIMPING UP!!— I MUST ATTEND THE SYMPHONY CONCERT!!
I LOVE THE NEXT PART WHICH GOES "IT KEEPS YOUR HAIR IN TRIM— IT'S NON-ALCOHOLIC CHARLIE—TA DUM DEE DUM— MADE WITH SOOTHING LANOLIN!!"
GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, CHARLIE!!

BUZZY asks: "DO YOU KNOW HOW TO BE A GOOD BABY-SITTER?"


GOSH, SUSIE, I'M BABY-SITTING FOR MRS. WILLIAMS TONIGHT AND I'M KIND OF NEW AT IT...
NOW DON'T BE NERVOUS, BUZZY! I'M AN OLD HAND AT IT. JUST FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE RULES...
"Be reliable- and begin by being prompt!"
RIGHT ON TIME, BUZZY! WE'RE OFF TO A GOOD START.
"Be sure you have full instructions from parents, including safety measures at home."
OH, MRS. WILLIAMS, YOU FOROT TO LEAVE ME A PHONE NUMBER TO CALL IN CASE OF EMERGENCY,
SO I DID, BUZZY. THANKS FOR REMINDING ME.
"Remember, quiet activities are best before bedtime--so no rough-housing."
"Be friendly but firm."
AW, BUZZY, I DON'T WANT TO GO TO SLEEP YET.
BUT IT'S TIME TO GO TO SLEEP NOW, JOHNNY. COME ON, I'LL READ YOU YOUR FAVORITE BEDTIME STORY.
"Respect the privileges the parents give you."
THANKS FOR CALLING, SUSIE, BUT I HAVE TO HANG UP NOW IN CASE JOHNNY'S MOTHER WANTS TO PHONE HOME.
OUCH! YOU'RE SURE FOLLOWING MY RULES TO THE LETTER!
NEXT DAY...
EVERYTHING WENT FINE, THANKS TO YOU, SUSIE!
I WAS SURE IT WOULD, BUZZY. I'VE FOUND THAT IF YOU TAKE THE JOB SERIOUSLY, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE IN DEMAND!

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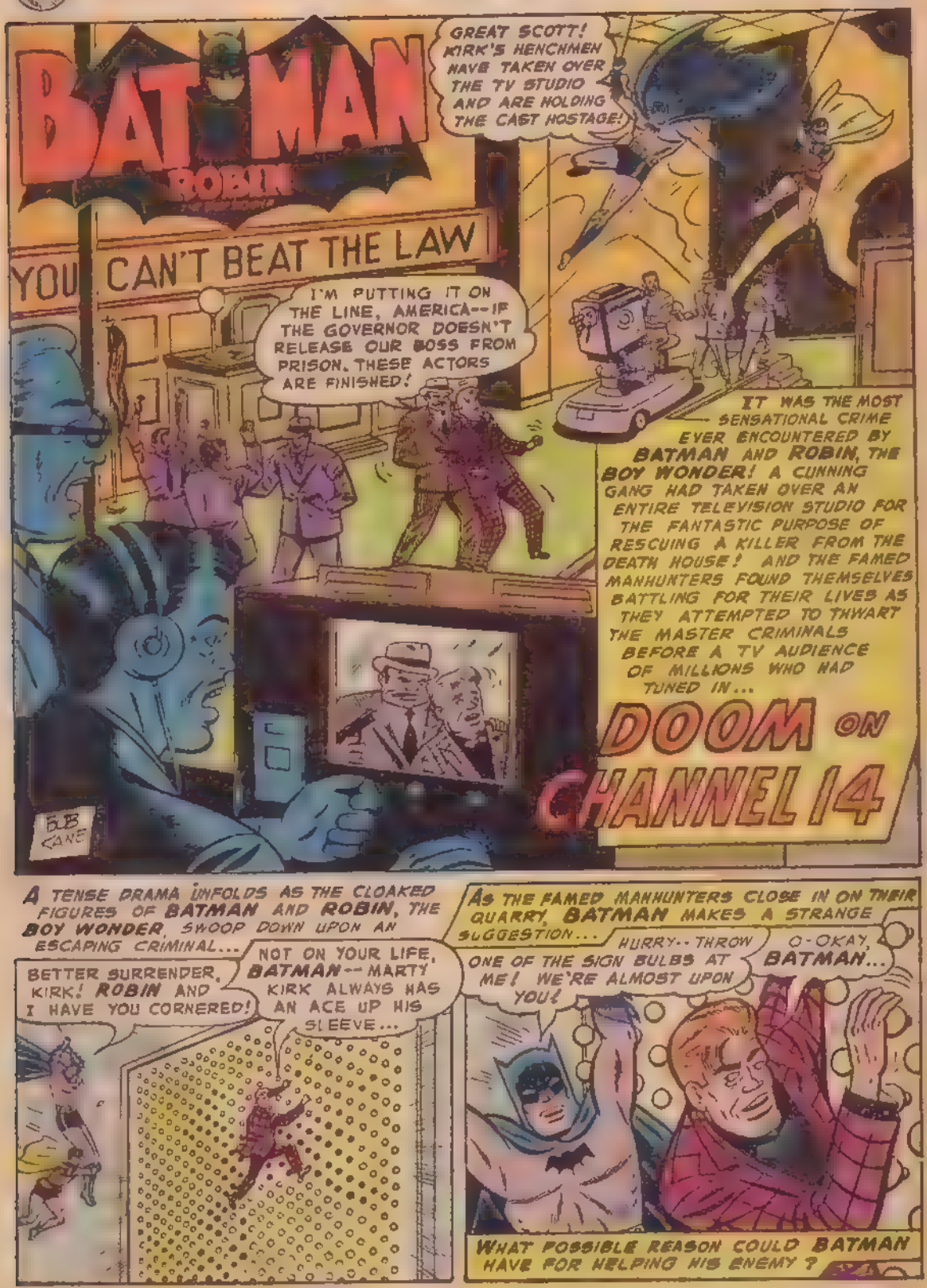
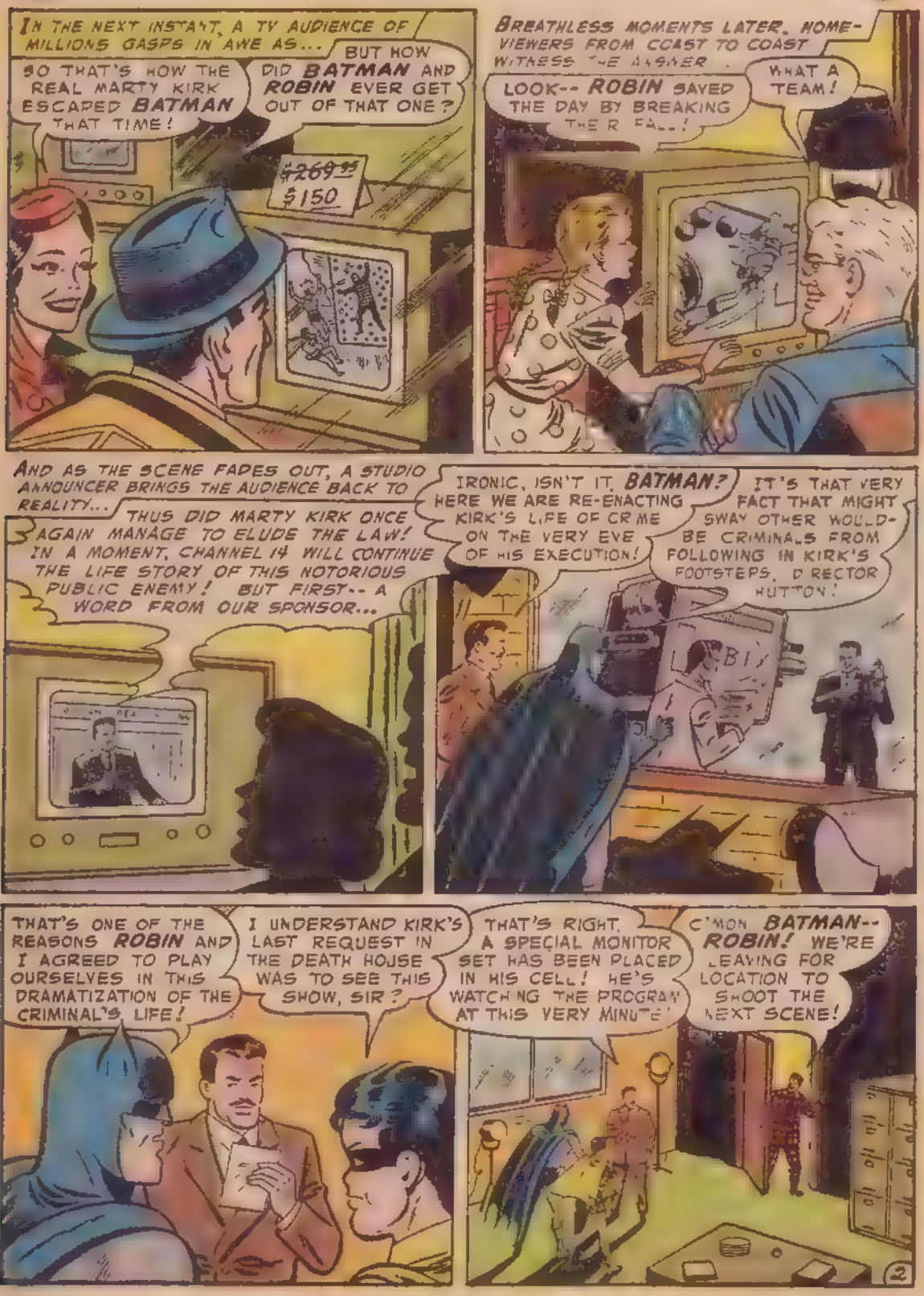
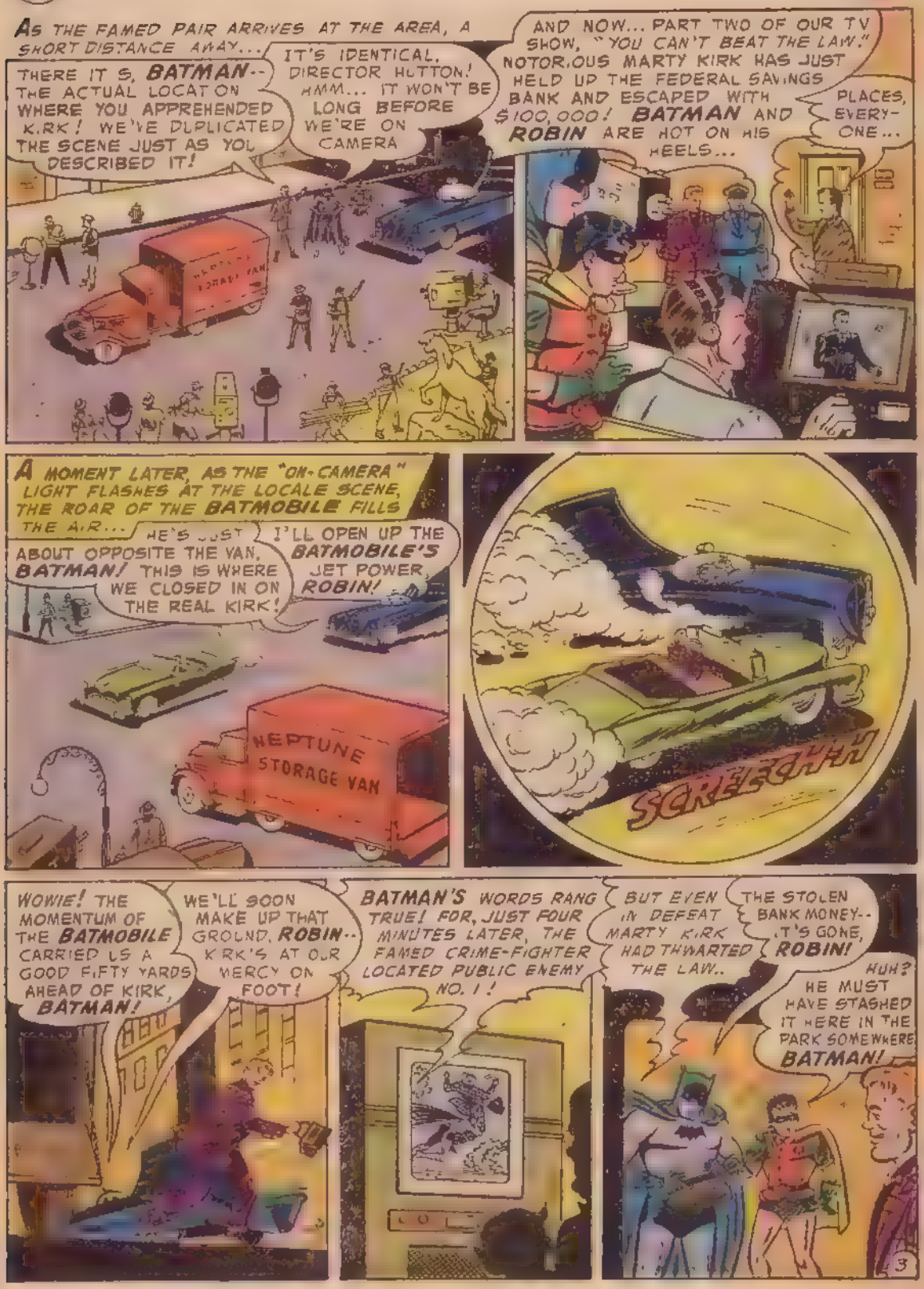
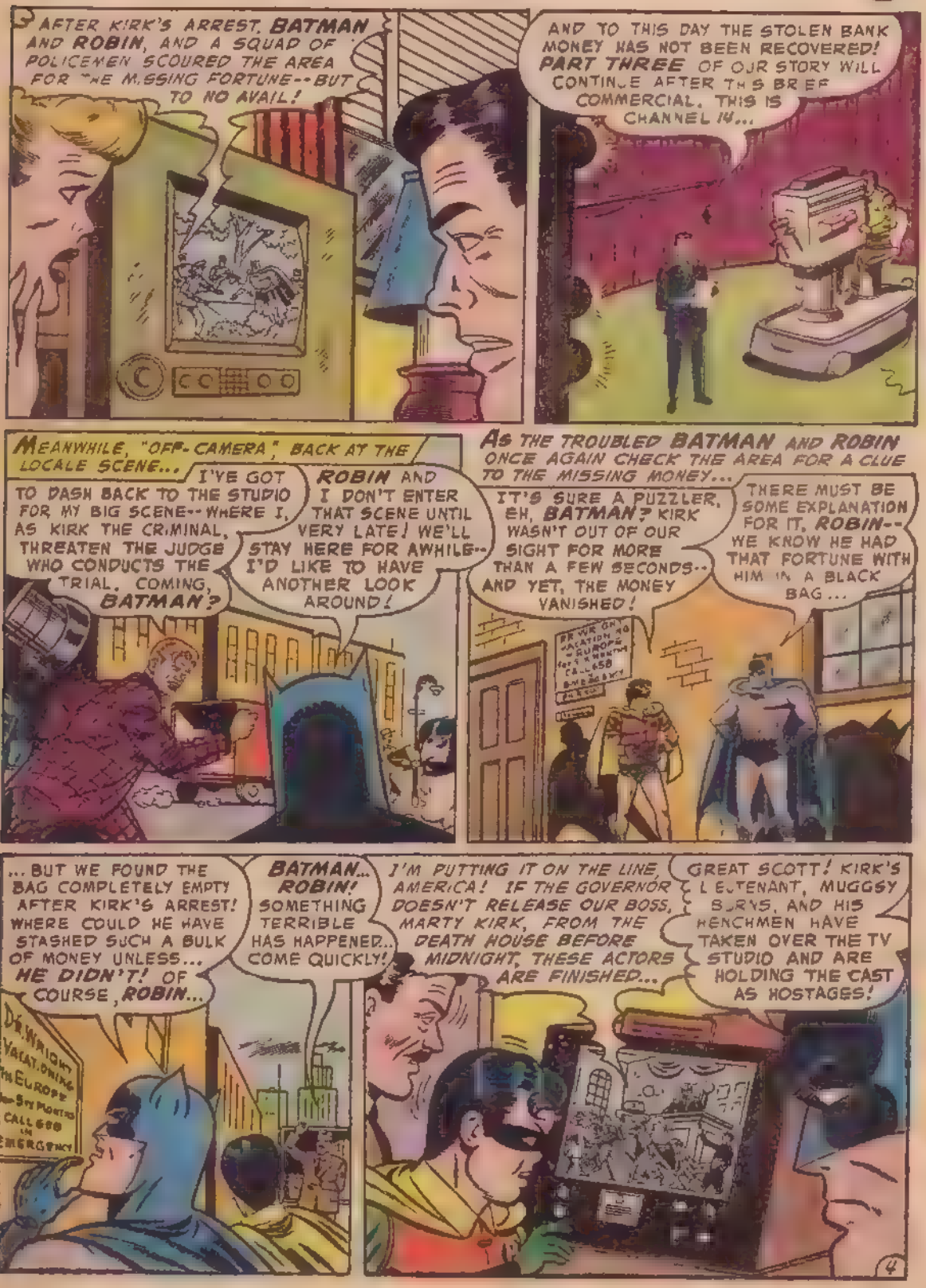

BATMAN
ROBIN
GREAT SCOTT! KIRK'S HENCHMEN HAVE TAKEN OVER THE TV STUDIO AND ARE HOLDING THE CAST HOSTAGE!
YOU CAN'T BEAT THE LAW
I'M PUTTING IT ON THE LINE, AMERICA--IF THE GOVERNOR DOESN'T RELEASE OUR BOSS FROM PRISON. THESE ACTORS ARE FINISHED!
IT WAS THE MOST SENSATIONAL CRIME EVER ENCOUNTERED BY BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER! A CUNNING GANG HAD TAKEN OVER AN ENTIRE TELEVISION STUDIO FOR THE FANTASTIC PURPOSE OF RESCUING A KILLER FROM THE DEATH HOUSE! AND THE FAMED MANHUNTERS FOUND THEMSELVES BATTLING FOR THEIR LIVES AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO THWART THE MASTER CRIMINALS BEFORE A TV AUDIENCE OF MILLIONS WHO HAD TUNED IN...
DOOM ON CHANNEL 14
BOB KANE
A TENSE DRAMA UNFOLDS AS THE CLOAKED FIGURES OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, SWOOP DOWN UPON AN ESCAPING CRIMINAL...
BETTER SURRENDER, KIRK! ROBIN AND I HAVE YOU CORNERED!
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, BATMAN--MARTY KIRK ALWAYS HAS AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE...
AS THE FAMED MANHUNTERS CLOSE IN ON THEIR QUARRY, BATMAN MAKES A STRANGE SUGGESTION...
HURRY--THROW ONE OF THE SIGN BULBS AT ME! WE'RE ALMOST UPON YOU!
O-OKAY, BATMAN...
WHAT POSSIBLE REASON COULD BATMAN HAVE FOR HELPING HIS ENEMY?

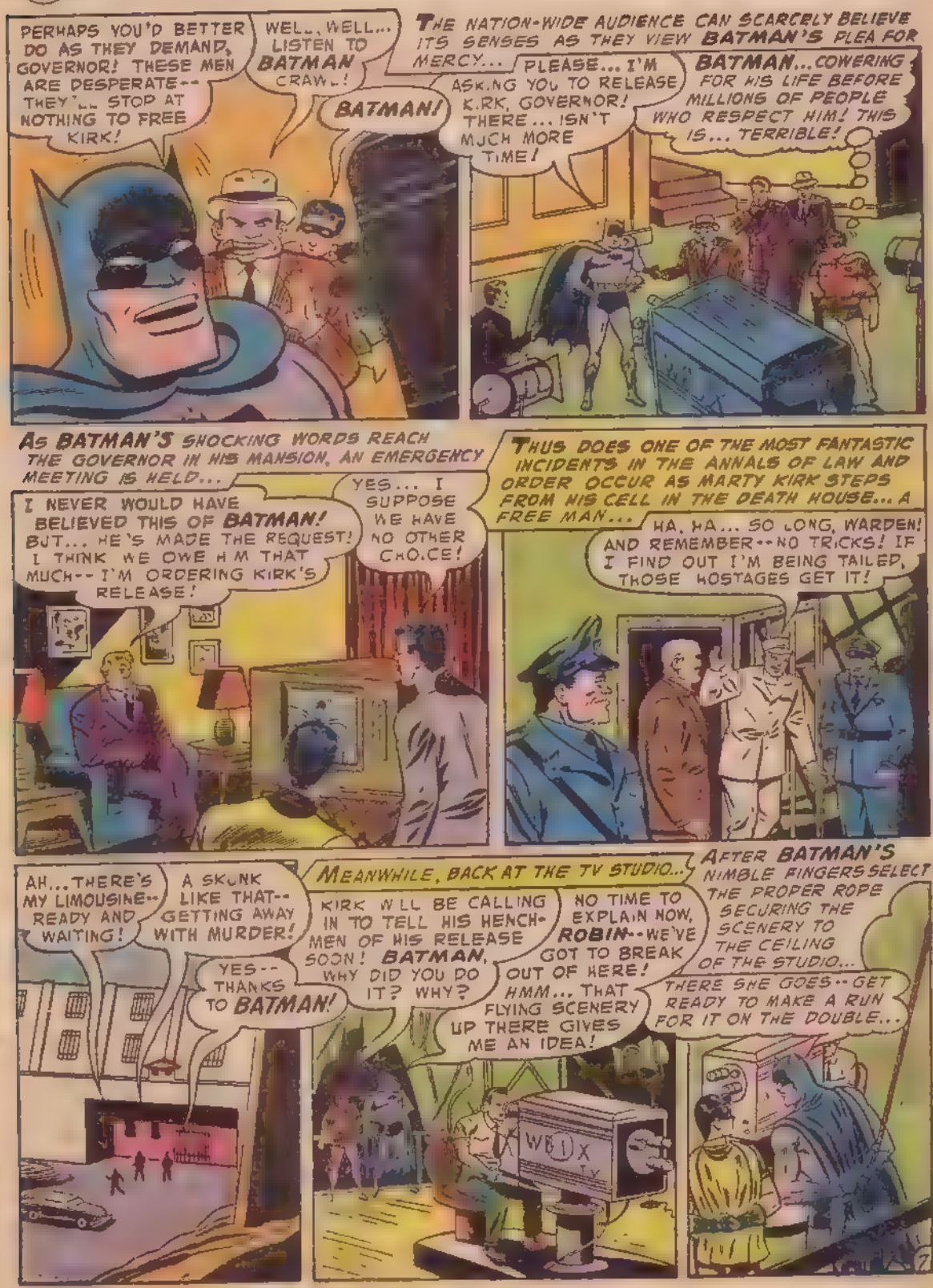

IN THE NEXT INSTANT, A TV AUDIENCE OF MILLIONS GASPS IN AWE AS...
SO THAT'S HOW THE REAL MARTY KIRK ESCAPED BATMAN THAT TIME!
BUT HOW DID BATMAN AND ROBIN EVER GET OUT OF THAT ONE?
#269
$150
BREATHLESS MOMENTS LATER, HOME-VIEWERS FROM COAST TO COAST WITNESS THE ANSWER...
LOOK-- ROBIN SAVED THE DAY BY BREAKING THE R FALL!
WHAT A TEAM!
AND AS THE SCENE FADES OUT, A STUDIO ANNOUNCER BRINGS THE AUDIENCE BACK TO REALITY...
THUS DID MARTY KIRK ONCE AGAIN MANAGE TO ELUDE THE LAW! IN A MOMENT, CHANNEL 14 WILL CONTINUE THE LIFE STORY OF THIS NOTORIOUS PUBLIC ENEMY! BUT FIRST-- A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR...
IRONIC, ISN'T IT, BATMAN? HERE WE ARE RE-ENACTING KIRK'S LIFE OF CRIME ON THE VERY EVE OF HIS EXECUTION!
IT'S THAT VERY FACT THAT MIGHT SWAY OTHER WOULD-BE CRIMINALS FROM FOLLOWING IN KIRK'S FOOTSTEPS, DIRECTOR HUTTON!
THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS ROBIN AND I AGREED TO PLAY OURSELVES IN THIS DRAMATIZATION OF THE CRIMINAL'S LIFE!
I UNDERSTAND KIRK'S LAST REQUEST IN THE DEATH HOUSE WAS TO SEE THIS SHOW, SIR?
THAT'S RIGHT. A SPECIAL MONITOR SET HAS BEEN PLACED IN HIS CELL! HE'S WATCHING THE PROGRAM AT THIS VERY MINUTE!
C'MON BATMAN-- ROBIN! WE'RE LEAVING FOR LOCATION TO SHOOT THE NEXT SCENE!
2


AS THE FAMED PAIR ARRIVES AT THE AREA, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...
THERE IT S, BATMAN-- THE ACTUAL LOCAT ON WHERE YOU APPREHENDED K.RK! WE'VE DUPLICATED THE SCENE JUST AS YOU DESCRIBED IT!
IT'S IDENTICAL, DIRECTOR HUTTON! HMM... IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE'RE ON CAMERA
AND NOW... PART TWO OF OUR TV SHOW, "YOU CAN'T BEAT THE LAW." NOTORIOUS MARTY KIRK HAS JUST HELD UP THE FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK AND ESCAPED WITH $100,000! BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE HOT ON HIS HEELS...
PLACES, EVERY-ONE...
A MOMENT LATER, AS THE "ON-CAMERA" LIGHT FLASHES AT THE LOCALE SCENE, THE ROAR OF THE BATMOBILE FILLS THE AIR...
HE'S JUST ABOUT OPPOSITE THE VAN, BATMAN! THIS IS WHERE WE CLOSED IN ON THE REAL KIRK!
I'LL OPEN UP THE BATMOBILE'S JET POWER, ROBIN!
NEPTUNE STORAGE VAN
SCREECHHH
WOWIE! THE MOMENTUM OF THE BATMOBILE CARRIED US A GOOD FIFTY YARDS AHEAD OF KIRK, BATMAN!
WE'LL SOON MAKE UP THAT GROUND, ROBIN-- K.RK'S AT OUR MERCY ON FOOT!
BATMAN'S WORDS RANG TRUE! FOR, JUST FOUR MINUTES LATER, THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTER LOCATED PUBLIC ENEMY NO. 1!
BUT EVEN IN DEFEAT MARTY K.RK HAD THWARTED THE LAW..
THE STOLEN BANK MONEY-- .T'S GONE, ROBIN!
HUH? HE MUST HAVE STASHED IT HERE IN THE PARK SOMEWHERE BATMAN!

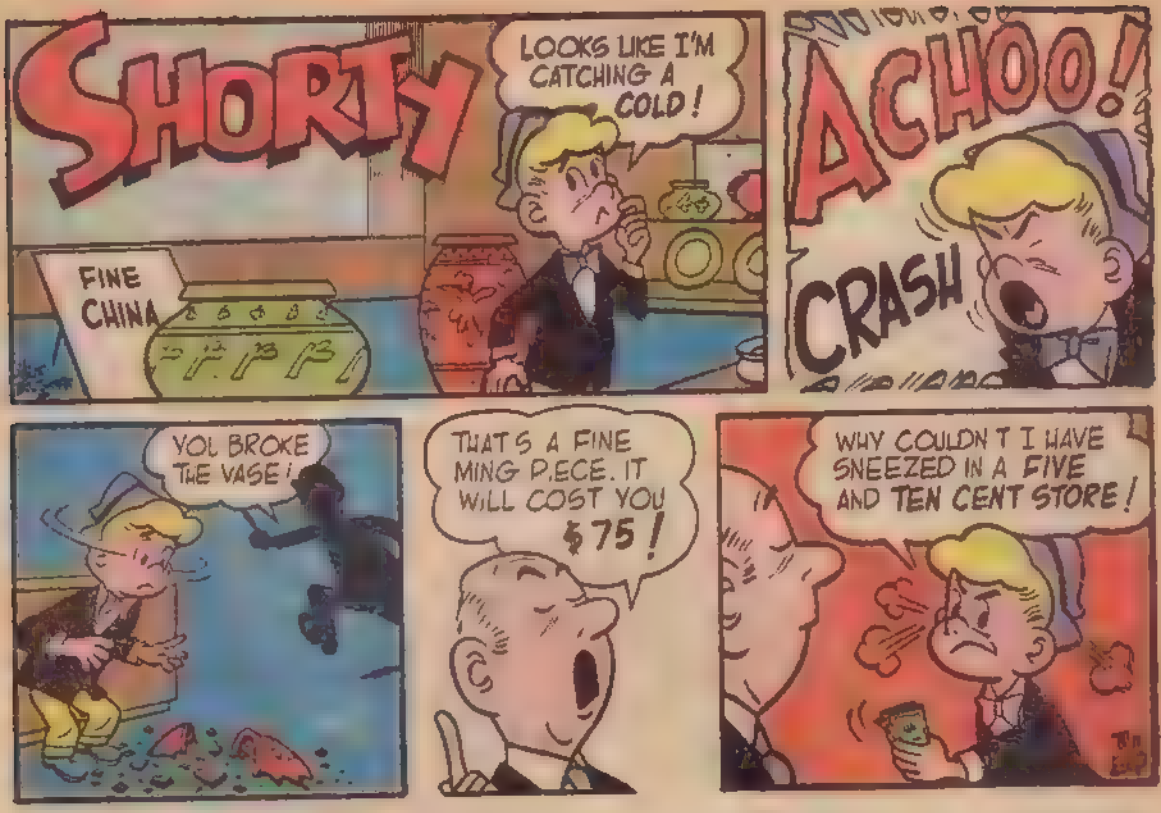

AFTER KIRK'S ARREST, BATMAN AND ROBIN, AND A SQUAD OF POLICEMEN SCOURED THE AREA FOR THE MISSING FORTUNE--BUT TO NO AVAIL!
AND TO THIS DAY THE STOLEN BANK MONEY HAS NOT BEEN RECOVERED! PART THREE OF OUR STORY WILL CONTINUE AFTER THIS BRIEF COMMERCIAL. THIS IS CHANNEL 14...
MEANWHILE, "OFF-CAMERA," BACK AT THE LOCALE SCENE...
I'VE GOT TO DASH BACK TO THE STUDIO FOR MY BIG SCENE--WHERE I, AS KIRK THE CRIMINAL, THREATEN THE JUDGE WHO CONDUCTS THE TRIAL. COMING, BATMAN?
ROBIN AND I DON'T ENTER THAT SCENE UNTIL VERY LATE! WE'LL STAY HERE FOR AWHILE--I'D LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AROUND!
AS THE TROUBLED BATMAN AND ROBIN ONCE AGAIN CHECK THE AREA FOR A CLUE TO THE MISSING MONEY...
IT'S SURE A PUZZLER, EH, BATMAN? KIRK WASN'T OUT OF OUR SIGHT FOR MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS--AND YET, THE MONEY VANISHED!
THERE MUST BE SOME EXPLANATION FOR IT, ROBIN--WE KNOW HE HAD THAT FORTUNE WITH HIM IN A BLACK BAG...
...BUT WE FOUND THE BAG COMPLETELY EMPTY AFTER KIRK'S ARREST! WHERE COULD HE HAVE STASHED SUCH A BULK OF MONEY UNLESS... HE DIDN'T! OF COURSE, ROBIN...
BATMAN... ROBIN! SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED... COME QUICKLY!
I'M PUTTING IT ON THE LINE, AMERICA! IF THE GOVERNOR DOESN'T RELEASE OUR BOSS, MARTY KIRK, FROM THE DEATH HOUSE BEFORE MIDNIGHT, THESE ACTORS ARE FINISHED...
GREAT SCOTT! KIRK'S LIEUTENANT, MUGGSY BURNS, AND HIS HENCHMEN HAVE TAKEN OVER THE TV STUDIO AND ARE HOLDING THE CAST AS HOSTAGES!
4

AS THE FANTASTIC CRIMINAL DEMANDS ARE CARRIED FROM COAST TO COAST, A NATION OF VIEWERS LOOKS ON STUNNED...
GOOD GRIEF-- THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE!
AND NO TRICKS--IF KIRK DOESN'T CALL HERE BEFORE MIDNIGHT GIVING ME A PREARRANGED CODE WORD, MY BOYS START TO WORK...
IT'S UP TO YOU, GOVERNOR--KIRK'S LIFE FOR THEIRS! YOU'VE GOT UNTIL MIDNIGHT TO DECIDE!
IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, 20,000,000 VIEWERS HAVE BECOME EYEWITNESSES TO THE MOST INCREDIBLE CRIME IN HISTORY! AND AS BATMAN AND ROBIN RACE TO TV CITY...
GOSH, THE GOVERNOR'S ON THE SPOT, BATMAN! IF HE DOESN'T FREE KIRK, HE'LL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FATE OF THOSE ACTORS AND TV CREWMEN!
YES, ROBIN-- BUT THE GOVERNOR CAN'T POSSIBLY MEET THE CRIMINALS' DEMANDS...
IF HE DID, IT WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE OTHER HOODLUMS TO USE THE SAME DEPLORABLE TACTICS! NO... IT'S UP TO US TO DEFEAT THIS GANG!
SURE... BUT HOW, BATMAN? THOSE CRIMINALS WILL TAKE ACTION IF WE TRY ANY TRICKS-- AND MIDNIGHT'S JUST TWO HOURS AWAY!
AS THE BATMOBILE SCREECHES TO A STOP OUTSIDE THE TV STUDIO..
LOOK, BATMAN-- THOSE ARMED THUGS MUST BE PART OF THE GANG!
WE'RE IN LUCK, ROBIN-- THEY'RE DARTING INTO A NEIGHBORING STUDIO! LET'S CATCH THEM-- THEY'LL BE TWO LESS WE'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT!
A MOMENT LATER, THE AGILE CRIME-FIGHTERS FIND THEMSELVES IN A MAZE OF JUNGLE...
WHY... THIS IS THE SET FOR THE "JUNGLE JOE" TV ADVENTURE SHOW, BATMAN!
RIGHT, ROBIN! AND THERE'S OUR PREY DEAD AHEAD! I'LL TAKE THE AIR ROUTE--YOU STALK THEM FROM BELOW!
5

BUT AS THE ALERT BATMAN HURTLES THROUGH THE AIR...
HUH?
BATMAN-- WATCH OUT! THEY'RE CUTTING THAT VINE YOU'RE ON!
GREAT THUNDER-- I'M HURTLING INTO AN ANIMAL TRAP BUILT ON STAGE!
HA, HA, HA... THAT CAGES BATMAN! NOW FOR THE KID!
I'LL... BE RIGHT WITH YOU, BATMAN!
BUT IN HIS EAGERNESS TO SAVE HIS FRIEND ROBIN FAILS TO OBSERVE ANOTHER CONCEALED TRAP AWAITING HIM...
ROBIN! THEY'VE SNARED YOU, TOO!
LET'S TIE THESE CHARACTERS AND BRING 'EM TO THE OTHER STUDIO! BURNS SAID THEY'D MAKE A COUPLA GOOD HOSTAGES FOR KIRK!
SHORTLY, AS MUGGSY BURNS CONFRONTS THE PRISONERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN, ON THE STUDIO SET...
I'D LIKE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AND YOUR PAL, BATMAN! BUT KIRK IS PAYING US A LOT OF LOOT TO PULL OFF THIS RESCUE AND SMUGGLE HIM OUT OF THE COUNTRY!
THIS IS MADNESS, BURNS! THERE'S STILL TIME TO TURN BACK-- I'M SURE THE GOVERNOR WILL GIVE YOU EVERY CONSIDERATION!
WE'RE BOTH GONNA HAVE WORDS WITH THE GOVERNOR, BATMAN-- BUT ON ANOTHER SUBJECT! SMILE-- YOU'RE "ON-CAMERA"!
LOOK--THEY'VE CAPTURED BATMAN! WE'RE SUNK-- HE WAS OUR LAST CHANCE!
YOU CAN'T BEAT THE LAW
THEN, AS BURNS STEPS BEFORE THE CAMERA..
HEY, GOVERNOR-- HERE'S BATMAN! HE AND THE KID, ROBIN, ARE TWO MORE HOSTAGES ON OUR LIST--THEY GET IT, TOO... UNLESS...
W-WAIT! I HAVE... SOMETHING TO SAY...
YOU CAN T THE LAW
6


PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER DO AS THEY DEMAND, GOVERNOR! THESE MEN ARE DESPERATE-- THEY'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO FREE KIRK!
WELL, WELL... LISTEN TO BATMAN CRAWL!
BATMAN!
THE NATION-WIDE AUDIENCE CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE ITS SENSES AS THEY VIEW BATMAN'S PLEA FOR MERCY...
PLEASE... I'M ASKING YOU TO RELEASE KIRK, GOVERNOR! THERE... ISN'T MUCH MORE TIME!
BATMAN... COWERING FOR HIS LIFE BEFORE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO RESPECT HIM! THIS IS... TERRIBLE!
AS BATMAN'S SHOCKING WORDS REACH THE GOVERNOR IN HIS MANSION, AN EMERGENCY MEETING IS HELD...
I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED THIS OF BATMAN! BUT... HE'S MADE THE REQUEST! I THINK WE OWE HIM THAT MUCH-- I'M ORDERING KIRK'S RELEASE!
YES... I SUPPOSE WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
THUS DOES ONE OF THE MOST FANTASTIC INCIDENTS IN THE ANNALS OF LAW AND ORDER OCCUR AS MARTY KIRK STEPS FROM HIS CELL IN THE DEATH HOUSE... A FREE MAN...
HA, HA... SO LONG, WARDEN! AND REMEMBER-- NO TRICKS! IF I FIND OUT I'M BEING TAILED, THOSE HOSTAGES GET IT!
AH... THERE'S MY LIMOUSINE-- READY AND WAITING!
A SKUNK LIKE THAT-- GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER!
YES-- THANKS TO BATMAN!
MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE TV STUDIO...
KIRK WILL BE CALLING IN TO TELL HIS HENCHMEN OF HIS RELEASE SOON! BATMAN, WHY DID YOU DO IT? WHY?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN NOW, ROBIN-- WE'VE GOT TO BREAK OUT OF HERE!
HMM... THAT FLYING SCENERY UP THERE GIVES ME AN IDEA!
AFTER BATMAN'S NIMBLE FINGERS SELECT THE PROPER ROPE SECURING THE SCENERY TO THE CEILING OF THE STUDIO...
THERE SHE GOES-- GET READY TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT ON THE DOUBLE...
WBIX TV
7

HURRY, ROBIN--WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT WIND MACHINE IN OPERATION BEFORE BURNS AND HIS BOYS REACH US!
I'M CATCHING ON, BATMAN! THE WIND MACHINE WILL SERVE US TWO-FOLD--IT WILL CUT OUR BONDS AND ACT AS A WEAPON!
SLAM
AFTER THE GREAT BLADES OF THE MACHINE SLASH THROUGH THE FAMED DLO'S BONDS...
HERE THEY COME--WITH GUNS BLAZING!
THIS WALL OF WIND POWER SHOULD STOP THEM, ROBIN--LET'S HOPE SO! IT'LL MEAN OUR FINISH IF NOT...
AS BURNS AND HIS MEN HIT THE GREAT GUSH OF WIND...
THAT DID IT--THE POLICE ARE SEIZING THE GANG! BATMAN--WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
C'MON, ROBIN--WE'VE GOT A SURPRISE DATE WITH MARTY KIRK!
LATER THAT NIGHT BATMAN AND ROBIN ATTACK A SILHOUETTED FIGURE IN THE NEPTUNE STORAGE WAREHOUSE...
B-BATMAN! HOW DID YOU FALL TO MY GIMMICK?
I CAUGHT ON TONIGHT WHEN I WENT BACK TO THE SCENE OF YOUR CAPTURE! IT WAS THE NOTICE THAT DR. WRIGHT WAS GOING TO EUROPE ON VACATION!
I'M REALLY IN THE DARK--WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, BATMAN?
KIRK SWITCHED HIS BLACK BAG WITH DR. WRIGHT'S BAG WHICH WAS IN A STORAGE TRUCK THAT EVENING! YOU SEE, BOTH BAGS LOOKED ALIKE...
...BUT THE DOCTOR'S BAG WAS EMPTY--THE ONE WE THOUGHT WAS KIRK'S! LATER, WE COULDN'T FIND THE MONEY BAG BECAUSE THE STORAGE TRUCK HAD LEFT!
I GET IT! KIRK HAD FIGURED THE MONEY BAG WOULD BE SAFE HERE IN THE WAREHOUSE UNTIL THE DOCTOR'S RETURN FROM EUROPE!
RIGHT ROBIN! WHEN BURNS TOLD ME KIRK INTENDED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, I REALIZED THE CRIMINAL WOULDN'T GO WITHOUT HIS LOOT! AND SO, HERE WE ARE!
AND YOU PRETENDED TO BE A COWARD IN FRONT OF THE TV CAMERA BECAUSE YOU KNEW YOU COULD GET YOUR HANDS ON KIRK HERE! GOSH, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER BATMAN!
THE END


SHORTY
LOOKS LIKE I'M CATCHING A COLD!
FINE CHINA
ACHOO!
CRASH
YOU BROKE THE VASE!
THAT'S A FINE MING PIECE. IT WILL COST YOU $75!
WHY COULDN'T I HAVE SNEEZED IN A FIVE AND TEN CENT STORE!

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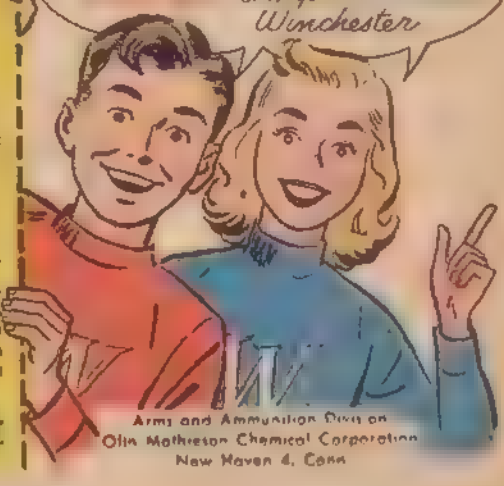
Wings and Winnie Winchester



Arms and Ammunition Div. of Olin Mathieson Chemical Corporation New Haven 4, Conn.

CASEY
THE COP
OFFICER, QUICK! THERE'S A BURGLAR TRYING TO GET IN TO MY HOUSE!
I JUST CAME HOME AND FOUND HIM JIMMYING A WINDOW!
WAIT! DON'T ARREST HIM NOW!
WHAT? WHY NOT?
SINCE THE HOUSE WAS PAINTED THAT WINDOW HAS BEEN STUCK--LET HIM GET IT OPEN FIRST!
THE END

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF BATMAN, published 8 times yearly at Sparta, Illinois for October 1, 1955

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J. S. LIEBOWITZ, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23rd day of September, 1955
ALFRED B. YAFFE, Notary Public
(My commission expires March 30, 1956.)

NEW GADGET TO FIGHT CRIME

Now, It's the Common Vaccum Cleaner, Which Has Come to the Aid of the Police

NOT long ago, a wealthy manufacturer returned home late from a meeting just in time to hear suspicious noises coming from the library. Bursting in, he caught a glimpse of a masked man just opening the wall safe. The flashlight in the robber's hand provided the only illumination in the room.

Foolishly, the manufacturer, instead of calling out for help, threw himself bodily on the intruder. The two men grappled in the dark for a moment until the robber, seeing his chance, brought the end of the flashlight down on his opponent's head. The manufacturer slowly sank to the floor.

Then the robber, hearing footsteps on the hall staircase, swiftly emptied the safe of its valuables and left through the rear window by means of which he had entered.

Hastily discarding the black mask that had shielded his face, the thief quickly dropped the loot in the thick bushes. If he was picked up, the police would find nothing on him to connect him with the crime. He would soon have the chance to prove his theory.

The footsteps heard by the thief belonged to the butler who had been aroused by the sounds of the scuffle. Instantly notifying the police, the butler then went to the side of his employer and helped the injured man to a nearby sofa.

In the meantime, a prowl car in the area, on receiving the alarm, spotted the thief about three blocks from the scene of the crime. And since he was the only figure about at this late hour, he was taken in for questioning.

An hour later, the manufacturer, taken to headquarters, failed to identify his assailant. And the flashlight, recovered from a bush in back of the house, was found to have been wiped clean of fingerprints.

"Looks like a perfect crime for—er—the one who did the job," sneered the confident crook.

"There's no such thing as a perfect crime," snapped the police officer in charge of the case. He added significantly, "And I hope to be able to prove it in an hour or so."

Shortly after, a tall, thin, angular-faced man in plainclothes entered the room at headquarters. Turning to the manufacturer who was seated next to the suspect, he asked:

"You say, you grappled with the un-

known man before he knocked you unconscious?"

"That's right," answered the injured man.

"Would you kindly remove your coat and let me have it?" And, turning to the suspect, he repeated the request.

The plainclothesman, actually a biochemist working for the police, took both coats into another room. He laid the coats—one brown, the other gray—on a table under a strong light. Then, removing a small vacuum cleaner from its case, he attached a dust collector to the machine and then began carefully vacuuming the front of the gray coat belonging to the victim. A few minutes of this, and he unscrewed the dust collector, substituting a fresh, clean one. The process was repeated with the front of the brown coat.

The dust collectors were then emptied. Each yielded the usual amount of dust, cloth fibers, and miscellaneous matter. The police-chemist then patiently examined both mounds of dirt under a microscope, grunting with satisfaction as he did so.

Lifting his head, he then asked for and was handed the flashlight. This time he used a tiny dust collector to probe into the ridge formed where the head of the flashlight is screwed on to the body of the instrument.

The dust obtained was also carefully scrutinized under the microscope.

At length, the examiner rose, nodded to the police officer in charge of the case, and went into a brief but thorough explanation of his findings. The police officer listened in silence, thanked the chemist, and took both coats back into the other room.

Handing each man back his coat, he turned to the suspect, and without attempting to hide his satisfaction, grimly said:

"We've got you, mister—got you cold!"

But the robber was an old hand in the business and not easily ruffled.

"You can't kid me! From what I've heard, the real crook was masked and left no prints or clues that could pin him to that job. Now that you need someone to take the rap, you pick on me! Well, I'm clean and you know it!"

"You're not as clean as you think," said the lawman. He invited both men to follow him into the next room. Standing in front of the two piles of dust, he looked up and said:

"I can prove that you were the man who grappled with the man whose house you robbed. Take a look."

Three pairs of eyes riveted on the dust particles.

"Look for yourself," explained the police officer. "This is the pile of debris we got from the gray coat. It's mostly filled with gray fibers, as could be expected. But if you look closely, you'll also notice brown fibers—identical with the brown fibers of the other coat—*your* coat, you crook!

"On the other hand, the brown coat yielded bits of gray fibers that exactly match the fibers of the gray coat. Obviously, your coats have come in contact with each other.

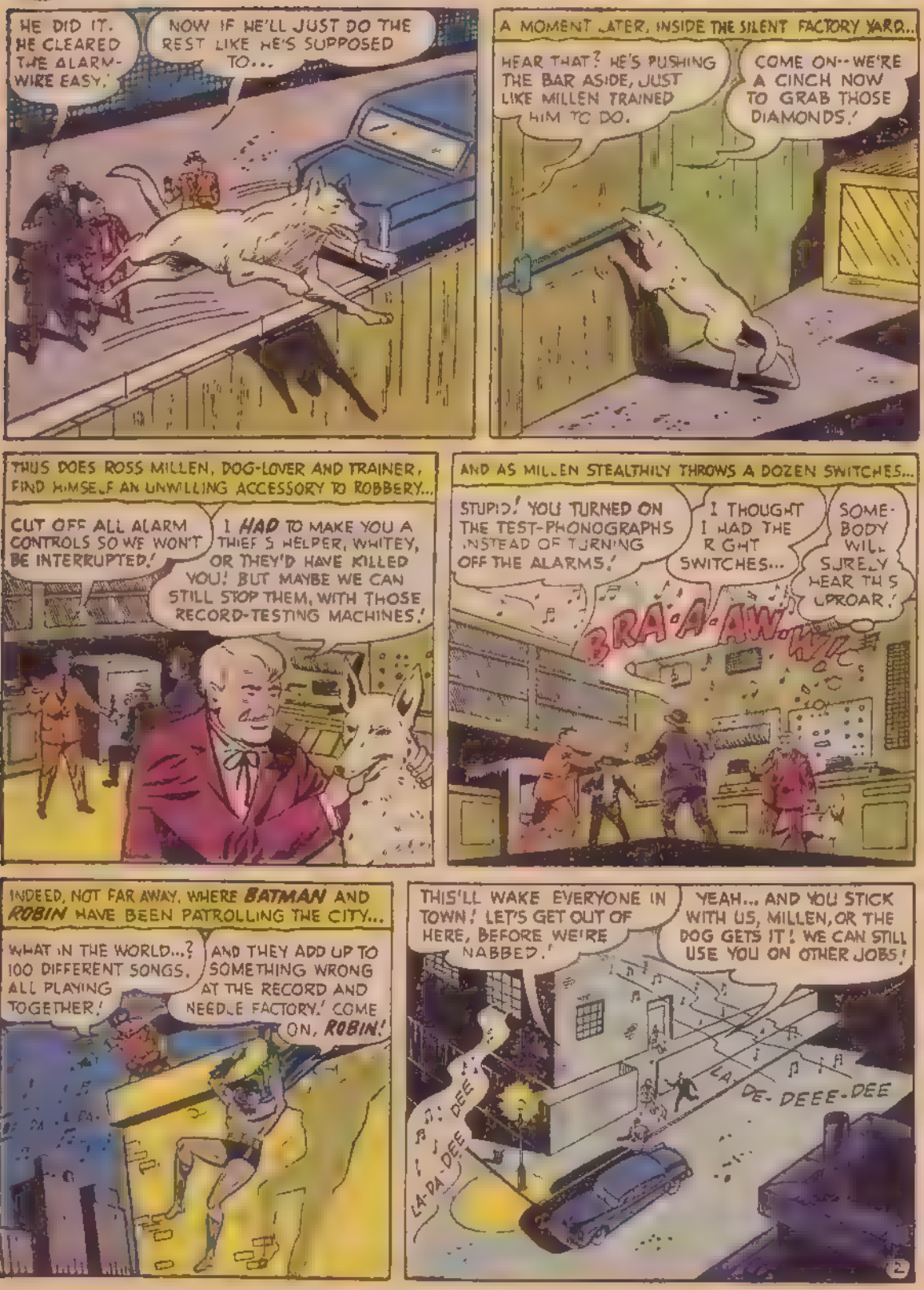
"And to clinch this case, we also vacuumed some of same brown fibers from that flashlight of yours!"

The crook stared, incoherent for a moment, at the small vacuum cleaner. "Y-you mean, I was trapped by a vacu-vacuum cleaner?" he gasped.

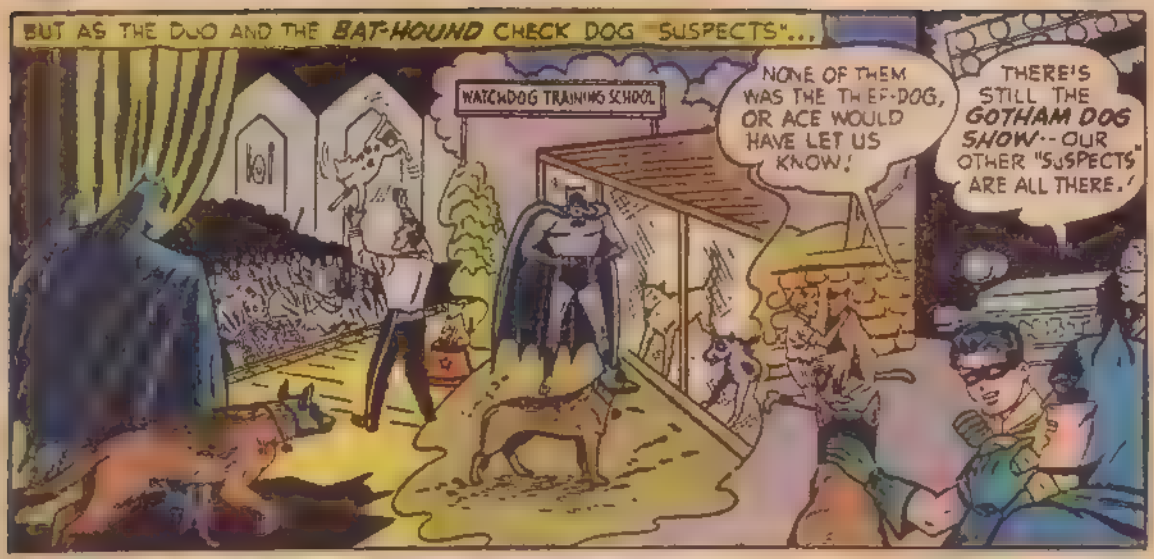
"You'd be surprised at the gadgets the police use to fight crime," smiled the police officer.

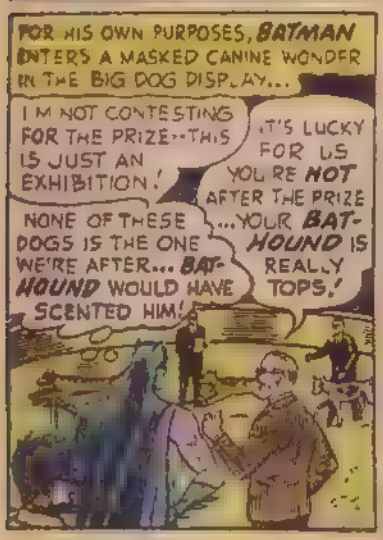
—Jack E. Miller

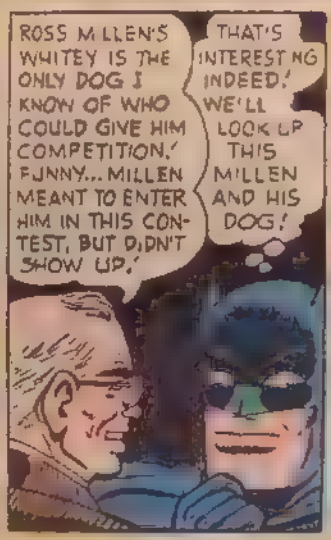
BATMAN
WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN THE TIME WHEN THEY HAD A LOYAL PARTNER IN THE FORM OF ACE, THE BAT-HOUND.! NOW, WHEN A STRANGE AND SINISTER SCHEME STRIKES AT GOTHAM CITY, THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTERS CALL AGAIN ON THEIR LOYAL FOUR-FOOTED FRIEND! AND THE CLEVEREST OF ALL CANINE CROOK-CATCHERS IS ON THE TRAIL ONCE MORE IN...
"The Return of the BAT-HOUND!"
LOOK, ACE IS FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF THAT THIEF-DOG."
BOB KANE
ONE NIGHT OUTSIDE A GOTHAM CITY FACTORY...
THIS PLACE USES PLENTY OF INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS FOR PHONOGRAPH NEEDLES. IT'LL BE A REAL HAUL, IF WE CAN GET IN.
THE WAY WE GOT IT PLANNED, WE'LL GET IN WITHOUT TOUCHING OFF ANY ALARMS.
GOTHAM PHONOGRAPH RECORD AND NEEDLE CO
ALL RIGHT, MILLEN... MAKE YOUR DOG DO HIS STUFF, OR WE'LL FIX HIM RIGHT NOW.!
NO, DON'T HURT HIM.! GO AHEAD, WHITEY... DO WHAT I TRAINED YOU TO DO.!

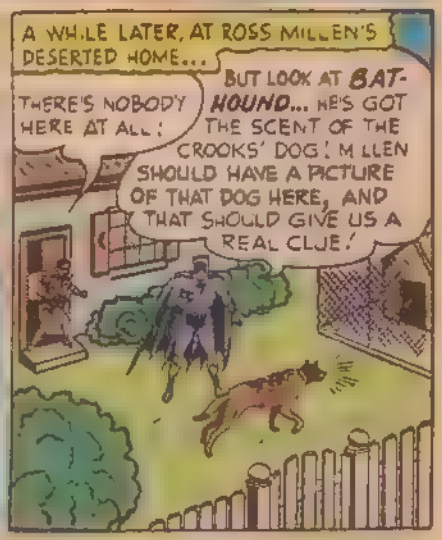

HE DID IT. HE CLEARED THE ALARM-WIRE EASY.
NOW IF HE'LL JUST DO THE REST LIKE HE'S SUPPOSED TO...
A MOMENT LATER, INSIDE THE SILENT FACTORY YARD...
HEAR THAT? HE'S PUSHING THE BAR ASIDE, JUST LIKE MILLEN TRAINED HIM TO DO.
COME ON--WE'RE A CINCH NOW TO GRAB THOSE DIAMONDS!
THUS DOES ROSS MILLEN, DOG-LOVER AND TRAINER, FIND HIMSELF AN UNWILLING ACCESSORY TO ROBBERY...
CUT OFF ALL ALARM CONTROLS SO WE WON'T BE INTERRUPTED!
I HAD TO MAKE YOU A THIEF'S HELPER, WHITEY, OR THEY'D HAVE KILLED YOU! BUT MAYBE WE CAN STILL STOP THEM, WITH THOSE RECORD-TESTING MACHINES!
AND AS MILLEN STEALTHILY THROWS A DOZEN SWITCHES...
STUPID! YOU TURNED ON THE TEST-PHONOGRAPHS INSTEAD OF TURNING OFF THE ALARMS!
I THOUGHT I HAD THE RIGHT SWITCHES...
SOMEBODY WILL SURELY HEAR THIS UPROAR!
BRA-A-AW-W-W
INDEED, NOT FAR AWAY, WHERE BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE BEEN PATROLLING THE CITY...
WHAT IN THE WORLD...? 100 DIFFERENT SONGS, ALL PLAYING TOGETHER!
AND THEY ADD UP TO SOMETHING WRONG AT THE RECORD AND NEEDLE FACTORY.' COME ON, ROBIN!
THIS'LL WAKE EVERYONE IN TOWN! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, BEFORE WE'RE NABBED!
YEAH... AND YOU STICK WITH US, MILLEN, OR THE DOG GETS IT! WE CAN STILL USE YOU ON OTHER JOBS!
LA-DE-DEEE-DEE
LA-DA-DEE
2

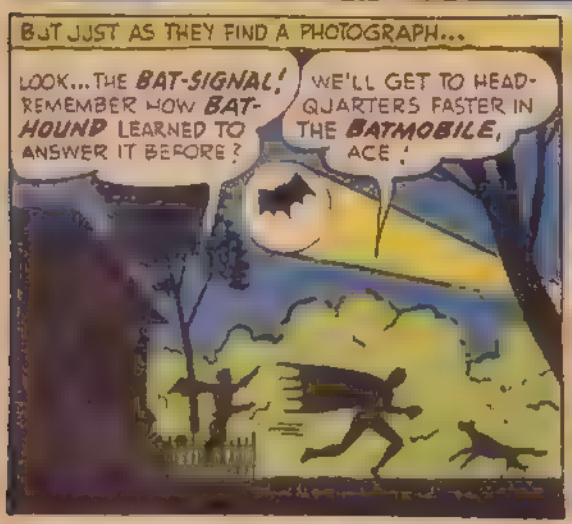
AND WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO ARRIVES...
IT WAS A ROBBERY ATTEMPT--BUT THEY SOMEHOW STARTED ALL THE PHONOGRAPHS IN THERE AND HAD TO GET AWAY! I'LL TURN THEM OFF BEFORE THEY DEAFEN US!
HMM--THESE TRACKS IN THE DUST...
DEE- DAW
DA- DEE--
PRESENTLY, WHEN ALL IS SILENT AGAIN...
THESE ARE PAWPRINTS.' APPARENTLY, THE CROOKS USED A HIGHLY-TRAINED DOG TO GET IN AND OPEN THIS BARRED GATE FOR THEM.'
THAT'S BAD.. HUMAN CRIMINALS WE CAN TRACK DOWN--BUT WE WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START WITH A DOG.'
TO STOP THIS, WE'LL NEED ABILITIES THAT NO HUMAN HAS.' ROBIN, WE NEED THE BAT-HOUND TO HELP US.'
OF COURSE! GOOD OLD ACE WOULD BE ABLE TO TRACK DOWN A CANINE-CROOK FASTER THAN ANY-ONE.' LET'S BORROW HIM FROM HIS OWNER RIGHT NOW.
SHORTLY, AT A COTTAGE OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY...
HE REMEMBERS US, ALL RIGHT... HI, ACE.'
REMEMBER HOW, AS BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON, WE FOUND HIM, STUNNED AND DROWNING--AND LEARNED THAT HIS OWNER, JOHN WILKER, WAS MISSING?
"BECAUSE HE'D BEEN SEEN WITH BRUCE WAYNE, AND COULD BE RECOGNIZED BY THE MARK ON HIS FOREHEAD, WE MADE HIM A MASK...'
NO ONE CAN RECOGNIZE HIM NOW, WITH THIS MASK ON.'
AND HE CAN HELP US TRACK DOWN HIS MISSING MASTER.'
SURE YOU CAN BORROW ACE AGAIN, BATMAN.' YOU AND HE ONCE SAVED MY LIFE, AND I'M NOT FORGETTING IT.'
: HAVE HIS MASK WITH US.' COME ON, ACE -- YOU'RE GOING TO BE A FOUR-FOOTED DETECTIVE AGAIN.'
AND SOON, ANOTHER GRIM SHAPE JOINS THE SEARCH FOR THE DIAMOND THIEVES...
THIS IS WHERE THEY GOT INTO THEIR CAR-- HE CAN'T FOLLOW THE TRAIL ANY FURTHER. BUT FROM NOW ON, HE'LL REMEMBER THE SCENT OF THOSE CROOKS AND THEIR DOG.'
FEW ANIMALS ARE AS HIGHLY TRAINED AS THAT THIEF-DOG MUST BE...WE'LL CHECK ON ALL TRAINERS WHO HAVE SUCH DOGS!
GR-R-R-R-R!
3

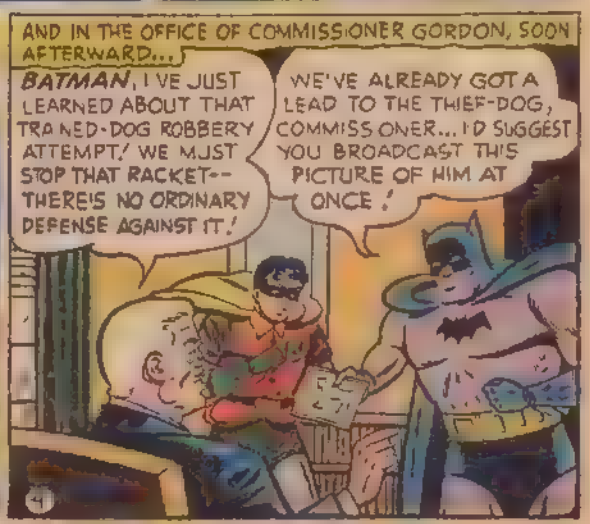

BUT AS THE DUO AND THE BAT-HOUND CHECK DOG "SUSPECTS"...
WATCHDOG TRAINING SCHOOL
NONE OF THEM WAS THE THIEF-DOG, OR ACE WOULD HAVE LET US KNOW!
THERE'S STILL THE GOTHAM DOG SHOW--OUR OTHER "SUSPECTS" ARE ALL THERE.!


FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES, BATMAN ENTERS A MASKED CANINE WONDER IN THE BIG DOG DISPLAY...
I'M NOT CONTESTING FOR THE PRIZE--THIS IS JUST AN EXHIBITION!
IT'S LUCKY FOR US YOU'RE NOT AFTER THE PRIZE ...YOUR BAT-HOUND IS REALLY TOPS!
NONE OF THESE DOGS IS THE ONE WE'RE AFTER... BAT-HOUND WOULD HAVE SCENTED HIM!


ROSS MILLEN'S WHITEY IS THE ONLY DOG I KNOW OF WHO COULD GIVE HIM COMPETITION.' FUNNY... MILLEN MEANT TO ENTER HIM IN THIS CONTEST, BUT DIDN'T SHOW UP.'
THAT'S INTERESTING INDEED! WE'LL LOOK UP THIS MILLEN AND HIS DOG!

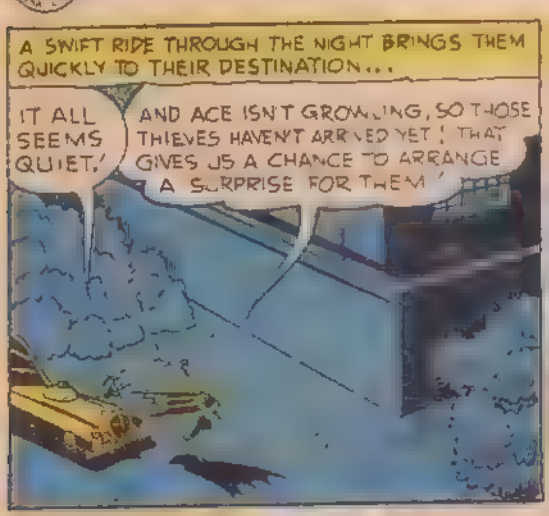

A WHILE LATER, AT ROSS MILLEN'S DESERTED HOME...
THERE'S NOBODY HERE AT ALL!
BUT LOOK AT BAT-HOUND... HE'S GOT THE SCENT OF THE CROOKS' DOG! MILLEN SHOULD HAVE A PICTURE OF THAT DOG HERE, AND THAT SHOULD GIVE US A REAL CLUE!

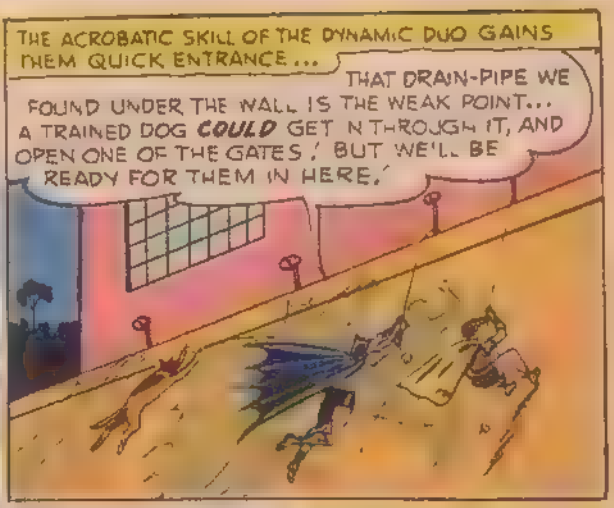

BUT JUST AS THEY FIND A PHOTOGRAPH...
LOOK...THE BAT-SIGNAL! REMEMBER HOW BAT-HOUND LEARNED TO ANSWER IT BEFORE?
WE'LL GET TO HEADQUARTERS FASTER IN THE BATMOBILE, ACE!

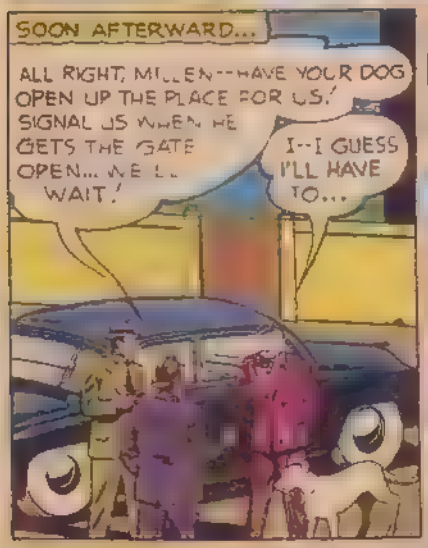

AND IN THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER GORDON, SOON AFTERWARD...
BATMAN, I'VE JUST LEARNED ABOUT THAT TRAINED-DOG ROBBERY ATTEMPT.' WE MUST STOP THAT RACKET--THERE'S NO ORDINARY DEFENSE AGAINST IT!
WE'VE ALREADY GOT A LEAD TO THE THIEF-DOG, COMMISSIONER... I'D SUGGEST YOU BROADCAST THIS PICTURE OF HIM AT ONCE!

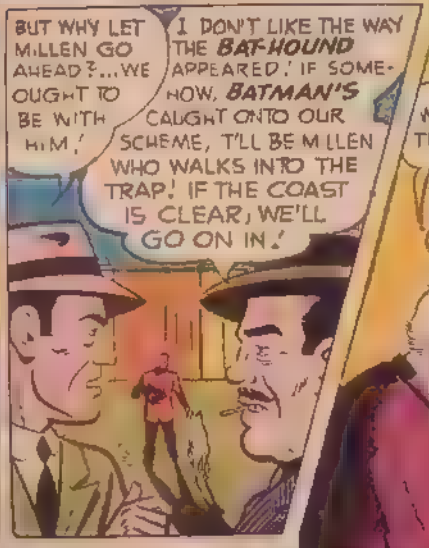
IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE BATMAN'S LEAD PAYS OFF...
A PATROLMAN SAW A DOG LIKE THAT IN A CAR WITH SOME MEN, IN THE WEST HILLS SUBURB.' BUT THAT'S A BIG AREA TO SEARCH.'
WITH BAT-HOUND HELPING, WE MAY BE ABLE TO SEARCH IT FASTER THAN YOU THINK.'
FIRST, A QUICK TRIP TO THE HIDDEN BAT-CAVE, FOR A SPECIAL PIECE OF EQUIPMENT...
YOU THINK THAT IF THEY'RE HIDING OUT IN THAT SECTION, ACE CAN FIND THEIR TRAIL?
HE CAN IF ANYONE CAN! AND IN ORDER TO CALL ACE BACK IF WE HAVE TO, I'M PUTTING THIS TINY TWO-WAY RADIO ON HIS COLLAR.'
SO INTO THE NIGHT GOES A FOUR-FOOTED DETECTIVE ON AN URGENT QUEST...
SEARCH, ACE--QUARTER THE REGION UNTIL YOU PICK UP THEIR SCENT.'
HE UNDERSTANDS--AND WITH THE TWO-WAY RADIO OPEN BOTH WAYS, WE CAN HEAR AND CALL HIM BACK FROM ANYWHERE
ARRFF!
SWIFTER THAN THE BATMOBILE ITSELF, THE GREAT LAW-DOG SEARCHES FOR THE SCENT...
AND AFTER MILES OF TIRELESS TRAVEL THE BAT-HOUND PICKS UP A TRAIL THAT NO HUMAN LAWMAN COULD DETECT.'
GRRRR...
MILES AWAY, BATMAN AND ROBIN LISTEN ALERTLY BY THE MAGIC OF TWO-WAY RADIO...
THAT GROWL--HE ALWAYS DOES THAT WHEN HE'S STRUCK A TRAIL! IF WE CALL HIM BACK NOW, HE CAN LEAD US TO THE PLACE!
NO, WAIT--I HEAR VOICES, THROUGH ACE'S COLLAR-RADIO... HE MUST HAVE CREPT UP ON THEM.'
GRRR!
THE BAT-HOUND HAS INDEED STEALTHILY FOLLOWED THE SCENT TO THE NEARBY HOUSE...
KEEP THAT DOG QUIET, MILLEN.'
QUIET, WHITEY.
MUST BE SOMEONE OUTSIDE--BUT I WON'T TELL THEM... IT COULD BE THE LAW.
WOOF!!

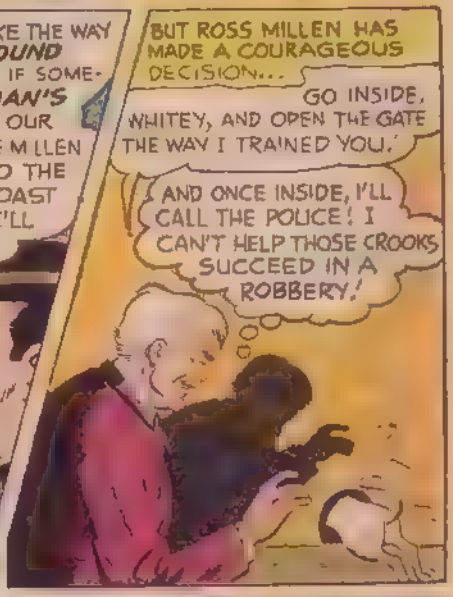
EVERYTHING'S ALL SET...WE'LL USE THE DOG TO BREAK INTO THE MINTON PLACE TONIGHT, AND THEN GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT DOG, ANYWAY?
ARF! ARF!
IT'S THE BAT-HOUND! SHOOT!
BUT IN THAT VERY SAME INSTANT, MILES AWAY...
IT'S THE BAT-HOUND! SHOOT!
ACE, COME BACK! COME BACK TO ME AT ONCE!
AND AS THE BAT-HOUND RESPONDS TO THE COMMAND...
TOO LATE--THAT DOG'S AS SMART AS BATMAN HIMSELF!
I DON'T LIKE THIS... WE'D BETTER MOVE FAST!
MINUTES LATER...
QUICK, ACE--LEAD US BACK TO THEIR HIDE-OUT!
WHAT A DOG! HE'S TRACKED DOWN CROOKS WHOM IT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN US DAYS TO FIND!
BUT UPON ARRIVING AT THE THIEVES' LAIR...
THEY'VE GONE! WHEN THEY SAW THE BAT-HOUND, THEY PROBABLY FIGURED HE COULD LEAD US HERE!
BUT THEY COULDN'T HAVE SEEN OR HEARD THE TINY RADIO IN ACE'S COLLAR... AND THEY DON'T KNOW WE OVERHEARD THEM!
THEY PLAN TO ROB THE MINTON PLANT... THE FACTORY THAT MAKES OIL-DRILLING EQUIPMENT!
OF COURSE... THESE THIEVES SPECIALIZE IN INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS, AND SPECIAL DRILLS ARE TIPPED WITH SUCH DIAMONDS!
6

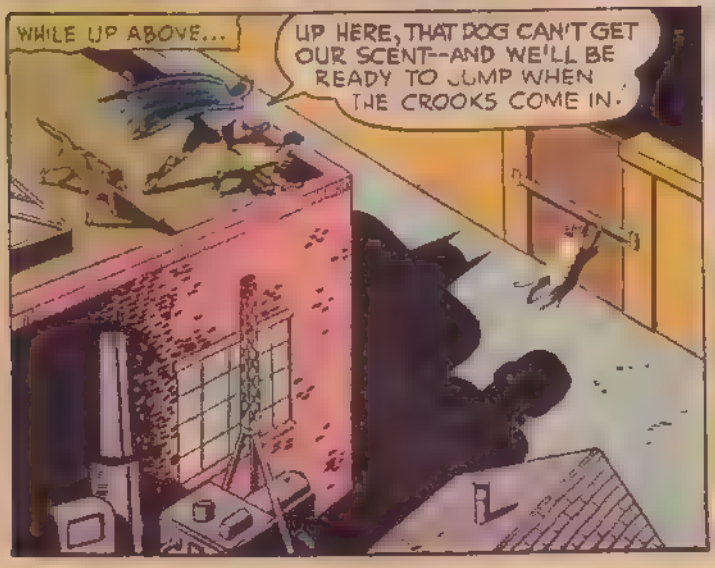

A SWIFT RIDE THROUGH THE NIGHT BRINGS THEM QUICKLY TO THEIR DESTINATION...
IT ALL SEEMS QUIET.'
AND ACE ISN'T GROWLING, SO THOSE THIEVES HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET! THAT GIVES US A CHANCE TO ARRANGE A SURPRISE FOR THEM.'

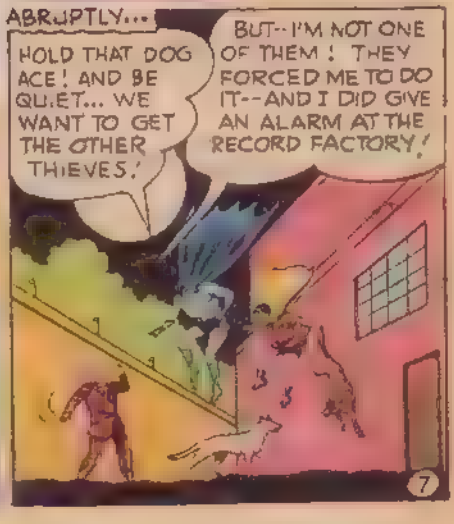

THE ACROBATIC SKILL OF THE DYNAMIC DUO GAINS THEM QUICK ENTRANCE...
THAT DRAIN-PIPE WE FOUND UNDER THE WALL IS THE WEAK POINT... A TRAINED DOG COULD GET THROUGH IT, AND OPEN ONE OF THE GATES.' BUT WE'LL BE READY FOR THEM IN HERE.'


SOON AFTERWARD...
ALL RIGHT, MILLEN--HAVE YOUR DOG OPEN UP THE PLACE FOR US.' SIGNAL US WHEN HE GETS THE GATE OPEN... WE'LL WAIT.'
I--I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO...


BUT WHY LET MILLEN GO AHEAD?...WE OUGHT TO BE WITH HIM.'
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE BAT-HOUND APPEARED.' IF SOMEHOW, BATMAN'S CAUGHT ONTO OUR SCHEME, I'LL BE MILLEN WHO WALKS INTO THE TRAP.' IF THE COAST IS CLEAR, WE'LL GO ON IN.'


BUT ROSS MILLEN HAS MADE A COURAGEOUS DECISION...
GO INSIDE, WHITEY, AND OPEN THE GATE THE WAY I TRAINED YOU.'
AND ONCE INSIDE, I'LL CALL THE POLICE! I CAN'T HELP THOSE CROOKS SUCCEED IN A ROBBERY!


WHILE UP ABOVE...
UP HERE, THAT DOG CAN'T GET OUR SCENT--AND WE'LL BE READY TO JUMP WHEN THE CROOKS COME IN.'


ABRUPTLY...
HOLD THAT DOG ACE! AND BE QUIET... WE WANT TO GET THE OTHER THIEVES.'
BUT--I'M NOT ONE OF THEM! THEY FORCED ME TO DO IT--AND I DID GIVE AN ALARM AT THE RECORD FACTORY!

HIS STORY SEEMS TRUE, BATMAN! IT WAS STRANGE ABOUT THAT ALARM AT THE RECORD-PLANT!
HMM...THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PROVE IT--AND GRAB THE CROOKS OUT THERE AT THE SAME TIME! QUICK, GET SOME CHALK DUST OUT OF THE FACTORY, WHILE I GET OUT MY UTILITY-BELT MAKE-UP KIT!
AND WHILE BATMAN USES HIS MASTERY OF MAKE-UP, ROBIN CREATES A DOG DISGUISE...
MILLEN LENT ME HIS SUIT--AND YOU'VE SURE MADE BAT-HOUND A DOUBLE OF WHITEY! YOU WATCH MILLEN WHILE I'M OUT THERE.'
RIGHT!
PRESENTLY...
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG TO OPEN THE PLACE? YOU TRY TO DOUBLE-CROSS US AND WE'LL FIX YOUR DOG JUST LIKE WE THREATENED.'
THANKS--THAT'S ALL I NEED TO PROVE MILLEN'S STORY.'
THAT'S IT, BAT-HOUND... DISARM HIM FAST.'
THE BAT-HOUND... DISGUISED.' THEN HE MUST BE BATMAN!
AND HERE'S ROBIN, TOO--BUT I GUESS I'M NOT NEEDED WHEN BAT-HOUND'S ON THE JOB.'
SO, LATER, WITH THE THIEVES JAILED AND AN INNOCENT MAN CLEARED...
SAY GOODBYE TO BAT-HOUND, WHITEY... HE'S THE ONE WHO HELPED BATMAN AND ROBIN CLEAR US!
AND HERE'S ACE BACK, MR. WILKER... BUT I'LL KEEP HIS MASK FOR HIM--JUST IN CASE BAT-HOUND EVER TAKES THE TRAIL AGAIN.'
THE END

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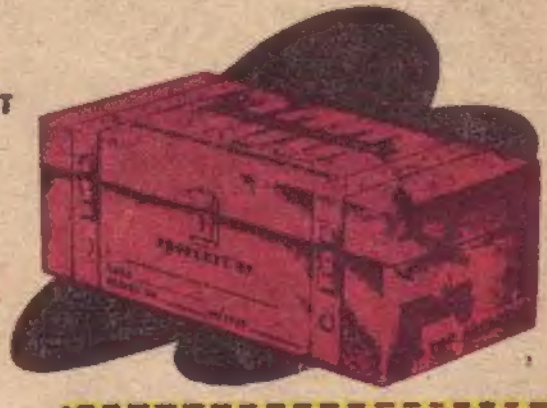

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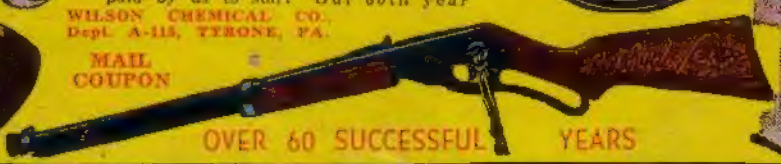

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